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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Ten Soldiers honored at Black Hills Stock Show Foundation**

RAPID CITY, S.D. – For the sixth time in as many years, ten Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard were honored today by the Black Hills Stock Show Foundation during its Military Appreciation Day at Rushmore Plaza Civic Center.

Lynn Hussman, president and board member of the B.H. Stock Show Foundation, invited 10 members of the Army National Guard and 10 members of Ellsworth Air Force Base to a military appreciation luncheon to honor their service to the state and nation.

“It is fantastic how the B.H. Stock Show Foundation Board of Directors takes time to recognize the men and women serving our country,” said Darla Crown, development officer of the Children’s Home Society. “Given that the Stock Show is one of the premier events in Rapid City, this luncheon is indicative of the generosity and patriotism of the community in which we live.”

The Stock Show Foundation is a non-profit organization established to manage scholarship and grant programs benefiting the communities, the region and the people who support the B. H. Stock Show and Rodeo, and the livestock industry.

Hussman and other Stock Show Foundation supporters listened to each Soldier and Airmen as they introduced themselves and shared deployment experiences as well as their current military assignments.

“We appreciate the Soldiers and Airmen that serve in uniform and the foundation wanted to acknowledge their service and sacrifice,” said Hussman.



**Photo Cut Line 090205-A5333M-0001:** Ten Soldiers from the Army National Guard attended the annual Military Appreciation Day on Feb. 5, 2009, during the 2009 Black Hills Stock Show at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, S.D. (Army photo by Maj. Brendan Murphy) (RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/090205-A5333M-0001.jpg>



**Photo Cut Line 090205-A5333M-0002:** Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Phil Lakner speaks at the annual Military Appreciation Day on Feb. 5, 2009, during the 2009 Black Hills Stock Show at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, S.D. Lakner recently returned from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Army photo by Maj. Brendan Murphy) (RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/090205-A5333M-0002.jpg>

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**NOTE:** Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 1,000 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 80 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia and Europe. More than 4,300 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.